



3rd Grade ela NEWSLETTER

April 6-10, 2026

Name: _____

Section: __



Homework

Monday

Read "The Love Letter" and answer the questions. Write a summary about the story and find the theme. Highlight text evidence.

Tuesday

Read "The Flat Tire" and answer the questions. Write a summary about the story and find the theme. Highlight text evidence.

Wednesday

Read "The Birthday Party" and answer the questions.

Thursday

Adjectives practice pages

Reminders

Pass 2 iReady lessons in your green lesson path by Sunday at 11:59 PM.

Complete the attached worksheets and turn in entire packet on Friday.

Assessments

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

Portfolio

(2 every week until May!)

Novel Studies

3A, 3B, 3C: Charlotte's Web
3D: I Survived the Great Chicago Fire
3E: Percy Jackson

Weekly Reading Skills

Summary

- Includes main idea
- Only important ideas
- Uses key words and your words

Nonfiction

- Main idea
- Sentence explaining each subsection

Fiction

- Characters
- Setting
- Problem
- Solution

Summarize

to retell the main events of a story in a shorter version.

Somebody

Who is the main character?

Wanted

What did the character want?

But

What was the problem?

So

How did the character try to solve the problem?

Then

How does the story end?

What is the THEME?

The theme of a story is the underlying message in the story. Many times, people confuse the main idea or the summary of a story with the theme of a story or passage. The main idea is a short summary of the events, while the theme is an inference that relates to the underlying message or lesson in a story. The theme is *not directly stated*, but is *implied*.

The reader must think about the character's experiences and choices to infer the theme of the story.

When a reader is attempting to infer the theme, it is helpful to ask...

1. What is the BIG idea in this story?
2. What larger message is the author trying to convey?
3. What did the author want the reader to understand?

THEME

The **theme** is the main message, lesson, or moral of the text.

The theme can be stated in text. Fables and myths might tell the theme at the end.

The theme can be implied. Use text clues to figure it out.

- What happens to the characters?
- How do the characters react?
- What do the characters learn?
- How do the characters grow or change?

ASK: What is the author trying to teach me?

EXAMPLES

Be kind to others.

Friends are important.

Don't give up.

Weekly Grammar Skills

What's an **ADJECTIVE?**

An adjective is a word that
describes a noun.

Adjectives answer the question

How many?

What kind?

Which one?



- The fluffy bunny looks like a cotton ball. **What kind?**
- Ten students met their reading goal last week. **How many?**
- The tall boy raised his hand in class. **Which one?**

Name: _____ Date: _____

MONDAY



THEME PASSAGE #2: The Love Letter

Read the following story and answer the questions that follow.

Max threw his fists in the air and howled after his final shot swished right through the basket.

"Wahoooooooo!" he yelled. "You know what this means, right Kai?"

Head down, hiding a smile, Kai knew exactly what it meant. Strangely, he felt a slight tinge of excitement. He'd never written a love letter and wasn't exactly sure how to do it, but he did have a little crush on Claire, so it couldn't be too hard.

"How am I supposed to write a love letter to Claire?" Kai implored.

Laughing, Max said, "That's for you to figure out, I guess!"

After Max and Kai parted ways, Kai got a paper and pencil and sat down at the kitchen table.

Fifteen minutes later, with butterflies in his stomach, the only scribble on his paper was "Dear Claire".

The back door swung open and Kai's older brother, Zach, walked in.

"Dude, why do you look so freaked out?" asked his brother.

"I lost a bet and have to write a love letter to the cutest girl in 5th grade, but I don't know what to say," he replied.

A smile grew on Zach's face. "You wanna know what I've done?" he asked.

"I know it's probably not the best way to go about it, but I've searched for love letters on the internet and found some real gems," Zach said, with a wink.

"Isn't that cheating?" asked Kai.

"Well, it's not like I looked up the answers to a test or something," he replied.

With that, Kai sat at the computer and discovered a whole new world that was chalk full of mushy, funny, goofy lines that he could use. He chose his two favorites and jotted them down on the paper.

The next day at school, Kai's knotted stomach churned.

"Kai has something for you, Claire," he heard Max whisper after school started. "You're going to love it!" he continued.

Max glanced over at Kai and smiled. "I dare you to pass it to her right now," he said. "I DARE YOU!"

Kai knew that he'd be in big trouble if Mr. Frank intercepted the note, but a dare is a dare. He waited until Mr. Frank was busy writing on the white board and clumsily tossed the folded note in Claire's direction. As he watched it sail through the air, he gasped when it landed two desks away from her. Max couldn't hold in his laughter. Mr. Frank turned to see what the commotion was about.

"What's going on Max?" Mr. Frank inquired as he caught a glimpse of the note and picked it up.

"Claire, is this yours?" he asked, reading her name on the note.

"No, I don't think it's mine," she said.

Kai sunk down in his chair. What a nightmare!

"Well, it must be something funny or Max wouldn't be laughing so hard," he began. "Let's read it!"

"Dear Claire," Mr. Frank began. His eyes scanned the note while a smile grew on his face. "Well well, Kai, aren't you sweet? This is just too good not to share with everyone. Maybe next time you should think about passing your love notes outside of class time."

"I'm dead, I'm dead. My life is never going to be the same..." Kai mumbled under his breath.

Mr. Frank continued reading. Kids giggled all around him as his face turned red, then a deep shade of plum.

Name: _____

Date: _____

MONDAY



Let's Talk About: THEME PASSAGE #2

Title of Passage: The Love Letter

1. Write a brief summary of The Love Letter.

2. What is one possible theme (written as a sentence) for this passage?

3. What evidence from The Love Letter supports that theme?

4. How can you apply this theme to your own life?

Name: _____ Date: _____

TUESDAY



THEME PASSAGE #3: The Flat Tire

Read the following story and answer the questions that follow.

On Kai's way out of school, Max walked up and blurted, "To others, you might just be a person in this world, but to me, you are the world. Really?" He just couldn't contain his laughter. "Did you come up with that all on your own? Wow! I'll have to ask for your help when I want to write a love letter!"

"Stop, Max! You have no idea how embarrassing that was!" Kai came back.

"Sorry man, that was just the best thing I've ever heard in my life!" replied Max. "You're a regular poet! Have you ever thought about making poetry your life's purpose?"

As they parted ways, Kai hung his head low and thought about getting home as fast as he could. All he wanted to do was hide in his bedroom and feel sorry for himself.

When he saw his mom pull up, he slithered into the backseat and threw his backpack on the floor.

"How was your day, honey?" asked his mom.

"Um, it was fine, I guess," he replied.

"You look flustered. Is everything alright?" she continued.

"No, not really, I just want to get home and I'll tell you about it later," he replied.

As they pulled out of the school parking lot, they saw a woman standing on the side of the road next to her car. She appeared distraught and gave Kai's mom a look of despair and then pointed to her front tire with one hand and motioned for them to pull over with the other hand.

"Oh, this poor lady looks like she needs help. A flat tire, maybe?" Kai's mom surmised.

"No, mom, she doesn't need help! She'll be fine. PLEASE, let's just go home! I need to go home!" Kai begged.

"Honey, if it were me standing on the side of the road with a flat tire, I would want someone to stop and help me," she replied. "Wouldn't you?"

"PLEASE MOM! I can't do this right now! I'm begging you!" he pleaded.

"Sometimes we need to step up and help people, Kai. I'm sorry you had a bad day. I want to hear all about it when we get home, but right now, we need to help this woman," she explained.

Kai sunk down in the seat as far as he could and covered his face.

As soon as they pulled over, the woman ran over. Kai's mom could hardly get the window rolled down before the woman started chattering.

"Thank you SO much for stopping. I'm on my way to the hospital. My daughter just had a baby and all I need is a phone to call my husband so he can help me get this tire fixed. I forgot my cell at home, of course, the worst possible time not to have a phone, right? I was just so excited to get to the hospital to meet my new grandbaby!" she rattled on and on, in sheer excitement.

"Of course! Here is my phone. Use it for whatever you need," Kai's mom said.

A few minutes later, she came back with the phone and thanked them over and over again! "You have no idea how much I appreciate you for stopping!" she kept saying.

On the way home, Kai's heart swelled up just a little bit. The woman's excitement was contagious and maybe it wasn't so bad that they took a few minutes to stop and help her.

The second they got home, the phone rang. Kai picked it up.

"Hello," he answered.

"Kai? This is Claire," he heard. His heart sank through the floor.

Name: _____ Date: _____

TUESDAY



Let's Talk About: THEME PASSAGE #3

Title of Passage: The Flat Tire

1. Write a brief summary of The Flat Tire.

2. What is one possible theme (written as a sentence) for this passage?

3. What evidence from The Flat Tire supports that theme?

4. How can you apply this theme to your own life?

Name: _____ Date: _____

WEDNESDAY



THEME PASSAGE #4: The Birthday Party

Read the following story and answer the questions that follow.

Hearing Claire's voice on the other end of the phone sent a shiver down Kai's spine.

"So, that note was nice and stuff and I've always thought you were pretty nice and I was just wondering if you wanted to come to my birthday party tomorrow night? We're going to the skating rink from 6:00-8:00," said Claire.

"Um, I think I can," stammered Kai. "Our science projects are due in a couple of days and I haven't really started yet, but I can try to get it done tonight," he replied, with a tinge of nervousness in his voice.

"Okay, well maybe you can talk to your mom about it and let me know at school tomorrow," she replied.

"Yea, um, okay, I can do that. Yea, so I guess I'll ask my mom and stuff," he mumbled.

"Sounds good. See you tomorrow!" she said.

Kai hung up the phone and took a deep breath. Maybe it wasn't such a bad day after all.

"Mom, can you take me to a birthday party tomorrow night?" asked Kai.

"Well, that sounds fun. As long as you get your chores and homework done, it's fine with me," she replied. "And hey, what happened at school today, buddy?"

"Oh, it was nothing really. I just got caught passing a note and it was kind of embarrassing, but it's okay," he replied.

He gathered his science materials and sat down to work on his project, hoping he could finish it so that he could enjoy Claire's birthday party. The more he thought about that party, though, the more he knew he would have a blast! Brent, Juan, and Michael would be there and he knew that if he felt too shy to hang out with Claire, he could skate with the boys and that would be awesome.

Minutes passed while Kai pictured himself skating around the rink with Claire at her birthday party. Was this actually happening? He felt nervous, excited, and unfortunately, very distracted. Minutes turned into MANY minutes while he sat staring at the blank packet of pages he must complete. By the time he scribbled a few notes on the first page, it was time for dinner, but man, that party was going to be so fabulous! The cutest girl in 5th grade invited HIM to HER birthday party. Claire Crawford invited Kai Masterson to her party. She invited HIM and nothing else could really matter that much, right?

Kai got so engrossed thinking about Claire's party that he hardly even remembered he had a project due. He couldn't wait!

The party ended up being just as awesome as he had anticipated. Actually, no, it was even better than he thought it could have been! He met some new people, skated with his friends, and even TALKED TO CLAIRE CRAWFORD!

The next morning at school, Mr. Frank called for science projects.

"Kai, do you have your project?" Mr. Frank asked.

"Um, no, not really. I'll bring it tomorrow," he replied.

"Late projects can only earn half credit," Mr. Frank reminded him.

Even though he had fun at Claire's party, he knew he should have stayed home to get it done and wondered how he was going to explain this to his parents. As long as they still allowed him to try out for Skyline's basketball team, he'd do anything to get it finished. Unfortunately, when his parents found out that he didn't finish his project, they told him that he would have to forgo the tryouts.

He knew this wasn't over, though. He'd do ANYTHING to try out for that team!

Name: _____ Date: _____

WEDNESDAY



Let's Talk About: THEME PASSAGE #4

Title of Passage: The Birthday Party

1. Write a brief summary of The Birthday Party.

2. What is one possible theme (written as a sentence) for this passage?

3. What evidence from The Birthday Party supports that theme?

4. How can you apply this theme to your own life?

**Rule
17****THURSDAY**

Adjectives are words that describe nouns or pronouns.

An adjective can tell three things:

- **what kind**

A **furry** monkey climbed a **tall** tree.

The **sleek**, **shiny** jet roared into the **cloudy** sky.

- **which one**

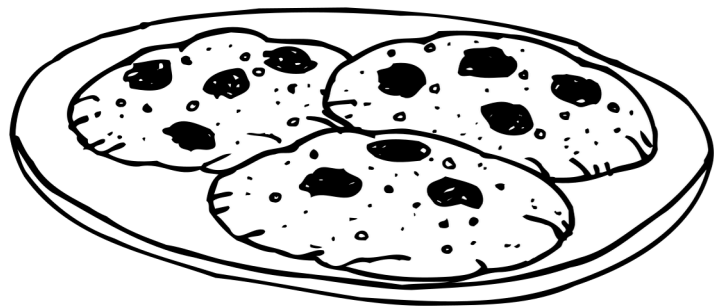
That purple bicycle is mine.

The **second** boy in line is my brother.

- **how many**

Several children took part in the race.

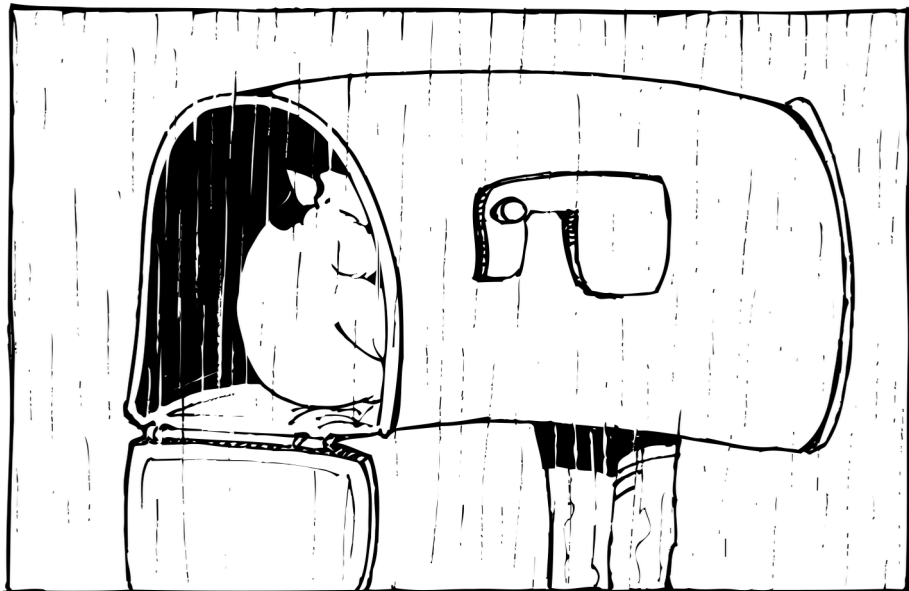
There are **six** cookies to divide among the **three** children.

**Adjectives**

What Kind?

Write a different adjective in each blank.

Have you seen that _____ bird with _____
feathers on its head, a _____ beak, and _____ legs? That
_____ bird darts in and out of the _____ bird feeder.
When there is a _____ noise, he doesn't fly away. But when there
is a _____ rain, he hides in our mailbox. I hope you will be able to
see this _____ bird someday.



How Many?

A Circle the words that tell **how many**.

1. Those six boys visited several friends.
2. We have a dozen cookies for a few children.
3. A couple of friends collected many baseball cards.
4. This small group of people has a million ideas.
5. There was one adult for every five students on the bus.
6. Three students read all of the poems to the class.

B Write a word that tells **how many** in each of the blanks.

1. _____ girls talked for _____ hours on the telephone.
2. There are _____ balls for _____ children.
3. _____ friends played for _____ days.
4. Are those _____ toys for your _____ pets?
5. We have _____ hats for _____ players.
6. She poured _____ gallons of water into _____ different fish tanks.